

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A container, comprising:
a base formed of thermoformed plastic,
the base including a floor; at least one base side wall integrally formed with and extending upward from the floor; a base rim, the base rim integrally formed with a top of the at least one base side wall; and
at least one tamper evident lock base portion integrally formed with a portion of the base rim, wherein the tamper evident lock base portion includes a crushable dimple; and
a cover formed of thermoformed plastic,
the cover including a ceiling; at least one cover side wall integrally formed with and extending downward from the ceiling; a cover rim, the cover rim integrally formed with a bottom of the at least one cover side wall; and
at least one tamper evident lock cover portion integrally formed with a portion of the cover rim, wherein the tamper evident lock cover portion includes a crushable dimple; and
~~wherein the tamper evident lock base portion and~~ further wherein the crushable dimple of the tamper evident lock base portion and the crushable dimple of the tamper evident lock cover portion are adapted to be fastened together by nesting one within the other;
whereby the cover may be secured to the base by ~~fastening the tamper evident lock base portion to the tamper evident lock cover portion~~ nesting and crushing together the crushable dimple of the tamper evident lock base portion and the crushable dimple of the tamper evident lock cover portion.
2. (Original) The container of claim 1 wherein the tamper evident lock base portion is connected to the base by a fracture portion.

3. (Original) The container of claim 1 wherein the tamper evident lock cover portion is connected to the cover by a fracture portion.

4. (Original) The container of claim 1 wherein the tamper evident lock base portion includes an adhesive-bearing surface, whereby the tamper evident lock base portion is adapted to be fastened to the tamper evident lock cover portion by pressing at least a portion of the tamper evident lock cover portion against the adhesive-bearing surface of the tamper evident lock base portion.

5. (Original) The container of claim 1 wherein the tamper evident lock cover portion includes an adhesive-bearing surface, whereby the tamper evident lock cover portion is adapted to be fastened to the tamper evident lock base portion by pressing at least a portion of the tamper evident lock base portion against the adhesive-bearing surface of the tamper evident lock cover portion.

6. (Original) The container of claim 1 wherein the tamper evident lock base portion includes a surface comprising a first material;

wherein the tamper evident lock cover portion includes a surface comprising a second material; and

wherein the first material and the second material adhere when pressed together;

whereby the surface comprising a first material of the tamper evident lock base portion and the surface comprising a second material of the tamper evident lock cover portion may be pressed together and fastened.

7. (Original) The container of claim 1 wherein the tamper evident lock base portion is adapted to be fastened to the tamper evident lock cover portion by engaging at least a portion of the tamper evident lock cover portion with at least a portion of the tamper evident lock base portion and subjecting the engaged portions to heat.

8. (Original) The container of claim 1 wherein the tamper evident lock base portion is adapted to be fastened to the tamper evident lock cover portion by engaging at least a portion of the tamper evident lock cover portion with at least a portion of the tamper evident lock base portion and subjecting the engaged portions to radio-frequency energy.

9. (Original) The container of claim 1 wherein the tamper evident lock base portion is adapted to be fastened to the tamper evident lock cover portion by engaging at least a portion of the tamper evident lock cover portion with at least a portion of the tamper evident lock base portion and subjecting the engaged portions to microwave energy.

10 – 12.(Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) The container of claim ~~10~~ 1 wherein the tamper evident lock base portion includes a tab having a first end connected to the portion of the base rim and a second end, wherein the dimple of the tamper evident lock base portion is located between the first end of the tab and the second end of the tab.

14. (Original) The container of claim 13 wherein the first end of the tab of the tamper evident lock base portion is connected to the portion of the base rim by a fracture portion.

15. (Currently amended) The container of claim ~~10~~ 1 wherein the tamper evident lock cover portion includes a tab having a first end connected to the portion of the cover rim and a second end, wherein the dimple of the tamper evident lock cover portion is located between the first end of the tab and the second end of the tab.

16. (Original) The container of claim 15 wherein the first end of the tab of the tamper evident lock cover portion is connected to the portion of the cover rim by a fracture portion.

17. (Original) The container of claim 1 wherein the base side wall includes at least one base sealing thread having a first engagement wall and wherein the cover side wall includes at least one cover sealing thread having a second engagement wall, whereby the first engagement wall engages the second engagement wall when the cover is fitted upon the base.

18. (Original) The container of claim 17 wherein the base sealing thread has a forward limit wall and the cover sealing thread has a forward limit wall, whereby the forward limit wall of the cover sealing thread engages the forward limit wall of the base sealing thread when the cover is fitted upon the base.

19. (Original) The container of claim 18 wherein the base sealing thread has a reverse limit wall and the cover sealing thread has a reverse limit wall, whereby the reverse limit wall of the cover sealing thread engages the reverse limit wall of the base sealing thread when the cover is fitted upon the base.

20. (Original) The container of claim 17 wherein the base sealing thread has a reverse limit wall and the cover sealing thread has a reverse limit wall, whereby the reverse limit wall of the cover sealing thread engages the reverse limit wall of the base sealing thread when the cover is fitted upon the base.

21-46. (Canceled)

47. (Currently amended) A method of using a container, comprising:

(a) providing a base formed of thermoformed plastic, the base including a floor; at least one base side wall integrally formed with and extending upward from the floor; a base rim, the base rim integrally formed with a top of the at least one base side wall; and at least one tamper evident lock base portion integrally formed with a portion of the base, wherein the tamper evident lock base portion includes a crushable dimple;

(b) providing a cover formed of thermoformed plastic, the cover including a ceiling; at least one cover side wall integrally formed with and extending downward from the

ceiling; a cover rim, the cover rim integrally formed with the bottom of the at least one cover side wall; and at least one tamper evident lock cover portion integrally formed with a portion of the cover, wherein the tamper evident lock cover portion includes a crushable dimple, wherein the tamper evident lock base portion and the tamper evident lock cover portion are adapted to be engaged and fastened together;

(c) placing the base on the cover whereby the rim of the base engages the rim of the cover;

(d) engaging ~~together~~ the crushable dimples of the tamper evident lock base portion and the tamper evident lock cover portion; and

(e) fastening ~~together~~ the engaged tamper evident lock base portion and tamper evident lock cover portion by crushing the engaged crushable dimples;

thereby securing the cover to the base and closing the container.

48. (Currently amended) The method of claim 47 wherein the tamper evident lock base portion is connected to the base by a base fracture portion, wherein the tamper evident lock cover portion is connected to the cover by a cover fracture portion, and further comprising the steps of

(f) breaking the base fracture portion and the cover fracture portion; and

~~(g)~~(e) disengaging the rim of the cover from the rim of the base
thereby removing the cover from the base and opening the container.